

REMARKS

The claims in the application are 1-20 and Claim 21 added by the present amendment.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The present amendment is being made in accordance with a telephone interview between the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application and the undersigned attorney on Friday, July 21, 2006. The courtesy extended by the Examiner in arranging for and conducting the telephone interview, is greatly appreciated.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended as presented for discussion during the telephone interview, with Claim 1 additionally amended in accordance with discussion during the interview to recite the supporting device 3 is arranged to raise the truck 4 together with the superstructure 2, such that the truck 4 is rotated about the upright axis 8, 19 (along which the superstructure 2, supporting device 3 and truck 4 are all positioned) to a new driving direction while the tracklaying gear 21 of the truck 4 is lifted off the ground (reference is being made to preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings of the present application). As described in the present application, the inventive crane 1 provides improved maneuverability with tracklaying gear 21, facilitating moving the crane 1 to a new operating location. The amendment to independent Claim 1 herein finds clear support throughout the present application and drawings, e.g., on page 2 of the present application. Additionally, Claim 21 introduced herein finds clear support throughout the present application and drawings.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 3,608,756 to Guinot in view of GB Pat. appln. 2,135,273 to Moussu in paragraph 4 of the Final Office Action. As pointed out during the telephone interview, Guinot fails to teach lifting and rotating of endless tracks 2 by a supporting device 13 provided with the outriggers 14, 15 (column 1, lines 67-68). It is only disclosed in Guinot that chassis 1 is mounted upon endless tracks 2 and has a rotary turret 3 rotatably mounted thereon (column 1, lines 53-55). The rotary supporting device 13 is provided with the stabilizing legs or outriggers 14 and 15 as pointed out *supra*.

In this regard, as pointed out during the telephone interview, the embodiments illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 of Guinot are specifically directed to rotating the turret 3 and support 13 having the outriggers 14 and 15, with respect to the chassis 1 mounted upon the endless tracks 2 (column 2, lines 22-42 and line 71-column 3, line 9). In other words, according to Guinot the endless tracks 2 themselves are neither raised nor rotated. Accordingly, the device of Guinot suffers the same disadvantages as in the prior art and over which the present invention constitutes an explicit improvement.


Moussu adds nothing to Guinot for the following reasons. Moussu fails to show lifting and rotating front drive wheels 2 about the upright axis 6 along which the lower turret structure 10 (provided with telescopic legs 13), chassis 1 (provided with the rear wheels 3) and turret 5 are all mounted. The orientation of front wheels 2 shown in block and broken lines in Fig. 5 only relates to turning these individual wheels about individual axes.

The remaining art of record has not been applied against the claims and will not be commented upon further at this time. Additionally, Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to eliminate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, raised in paragraphs 2.a. and b. of the Final Office Action.

Accordingly, in view of the forgoing amendment, accompanying remarks and telephone interview in the above-identified application, it is respectfully submitted all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned attorney should there be any questions. A petition for an automatic two month extension of time for response under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) is enclosed in triplicate together with RCE transmittal papers and requisite petition and RCE filing fees.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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